An extraordinary Caſe in Surgery, communicated by Mr. Joſeph Atkinſon *Senior, Surgeon.*

A Maiden, about 20 Years of Age, was brought to me about *Chriſtmas* 1723; who had a Tumour on the inſide of her right Thigh, extending from the Groin to the Knee, which was ſo large, that I judg'd it contained at leaſt the Quantity of a Gallon; the *Cutis* was exceedingly diſtended, but of the natural Colour, only, the capillary Veins appear'd varicous, and very numerous; ſhe had alſo a large Tumour on the Buttock of the ſame Side, of the Bigneſs of a Quartern Loaf; but when the Tumour on the Thigh was preſſed, the Tumour above very much encreas'd, which ſhew'd a Communication, and prov'd afterwards ſo to be: She had alſo another Tumour on her right Side, ſtretching from the left Side of the *Vertebræ* of the Back to the *Hypochondrium*, about the Bigneſs of a Penny Loaf, her Body was very much emaciated, and ſhe could hardly breathe, and the little Victuals ſhe eat very difficultly paſſed out of the Stomach. She had had the *Menſes* but twice or thrice, about 12 Months before the Beginning of thoſe Tumours, and it is to be marked, that the Tumour of her Thigh began firſt, and increaſed to near the Magnitude I firſt ſaw it, before the Tumour of the Buttock and Hip began; after that, the Tumour of her Back began, which, as it increas'd, brought on great Difficulty in Breathing. She had been with ſeveral other Perſons, who adviſed againſt opening the Tumour of her Thigh, moſt of them being of the Opinion it was from Blood, and that her Caſe was incurable: I confeſs,

confeſs, I was of a contrary Opinion; but being told what ſo many others had ſaid, I declin'd meddling with it at that Time, though her Parents and herſelf were willing to it: At this Time I diſmiſſed her, ſaying, that, if ſhe liv'd, a little Time wou'd diſcover more of her Caſe. About two Months after I was deſired to viſit her again, which I did, but the Tumours were ſo monſtrouſly increaſed, and her Body ſo waſted, that I wonder'd ſhe could live under ſuch Circumſtances; the Tumour of the Thigh was every Way yielding to the Preſſure of the Finger, nor was there the leaſt Hardneſs about the Extremities of it, ſo that it might be eaſily miſtaken for an *Aneuriſma*, had it not wanted the grand Characteriſtick, Pulſation, which ſome ſay, is not to be felt when thoſe are very large, the Middle of this then look'd a little red, and ſhining, and ſeem'd to point a little; I told them I believed it would break with a ſmall Orifice, and ſhew what was contain'd, willing them to notify it to me if ſuch a Thing happen'd: Three Days after they call'd me in haſte to this Patient, ſaying, the Swelling of her Thigh was broke; when I came, I found there had been diſcharg'd a ſmall Quantity of matteriſh Subſtance, much like what is contain'd in a *Meliceris*, but the Opening was ſo ſmall or cloſed, that I could not enter my Probe; however, though ſhe ſeem'd to me (and to Mr. *Wall*, an Apothecary then preſent) to be ready to expire, yet, at the Deſire of her Parents, I open'd this Tumour with my Launcet, making an Inciſion about an Inch and an half long, through which poured three Pint Baſons full of Matter, beſides ſeveral ſmaller, which together contain'd about five Quarts, it was very fœtid and bloody towards the latter End of this Diſcharge; upon this, the Tumour wholly ſubſided, in-

ſomuch that the Thigh inſtantly became as ſmall as the other; I put my Finger into the Wound, and found the *Faſcia lata* quite conſum'd, the Muſcles lay all looſe, ſo that I fairly touch'd the Thigh-Bone between them, as I would.

But I ſhould acquaint you, that, immediately upon the Diſcharge of this Humour, the Tumour on the Buttock was conſiderably abated, but there followed about two or three Spoonfuls of florid Blood; I dreſs'd it up for this Time with a proper Digeſtive, and a ſuitable Bandage; the Day following I viſited her again, and found ſhe had ſlept pretty well, and was much refreſh'd, and not the leaſt Faintneſs had attended her, during my Abſence, which ſhews the imaginary *Synocope*, that is feared to follow ſuch, Evacuations, to be groundleſs; the Day following, taking off my Dreſſings, I found the Limb, in its Figure, bigger than the other; at the third Dreſſing there appear'd a ſmall hard Swelling a little below the Orifice, which was made by ſome grumous Blood that lay there, which I turn'd out with my Finger, in Quantity about four Ounces, this was follow'd by a florid Blood, which much ſurpriſed me; I then judg'd this proceeded from ſome Hypogaſtrick Veſſel that ſupplied this Tumour, and I deſpair'd of Succeſs, unleſs I could meet with this Spring; ſo, in order to it, I laid open the Sinews to the Groin, and, though I could not diſcover the Veſſel, yet I ſo ſucceſsfully applied my Aſtringent, that from that Time it bled no more; however, there was, for a Week, a great Flowing of a ſerous Matter, which wholly ſunk the Tumour of the Buttock and Hip, and, by boul ſtering and compreſſing with ſuitable Bandage, the ſo long ſeparated *Cutis* clos'd with the Muſcles,

Muſcles, and all Things, in about a Fortnight ſeem'd to be in a fair Way of healing, yet, it was near three Months, before this Cure was compleated.

But ſtill (that is, a Fortnight after the Opening of the Thigh) the Tumour on her Back continu'd, and ſhe much ſtraitened for Breath; ſaying, if that was opened, ſhe ſhould be preſently reliev'd; this Tumour I then open'd (which was, I ſaid, as big as a Penny white Loaf, and there iſſued out about two Quarts of Matter, or rather more: I was again greatly ſurpriſed that ſuch a Quantity, ſo much more than what poſſibly this viſible Tumour could contain, ſhould run out of this Orifice; I enter'd my Probe, and found it penetrate into the Cavity of the *Thorax*, between the ſecond and third ſpurious Rib, reckoning from beneath, on which ſhe reſpired with all Freedom, but there was a *Halitus* at this Wound; I continu'd to dreſs this and believe, before this tended towards Healing, not leſs (at Times) than a Gallon, or rather five Quarts of Matter, was diſcharg'd; but, when I thought all was over, it filled again, the external Tumour became almoſt as big as before, and her Breathing as difficult as ever, ſo that I now thought all my Labour had been in vain; yet I open'd it again with a larger Orifice, and from that Time dreſſed it ſucceſsfully, to the perfect Healing; the *Menſes* are return'd, the Patient continuing well to this Day, and in a good State of Health. This Patient has been viewed by Mr. *John Douglaſs*, and he has had an ample Account of this Affair.

V. *An*